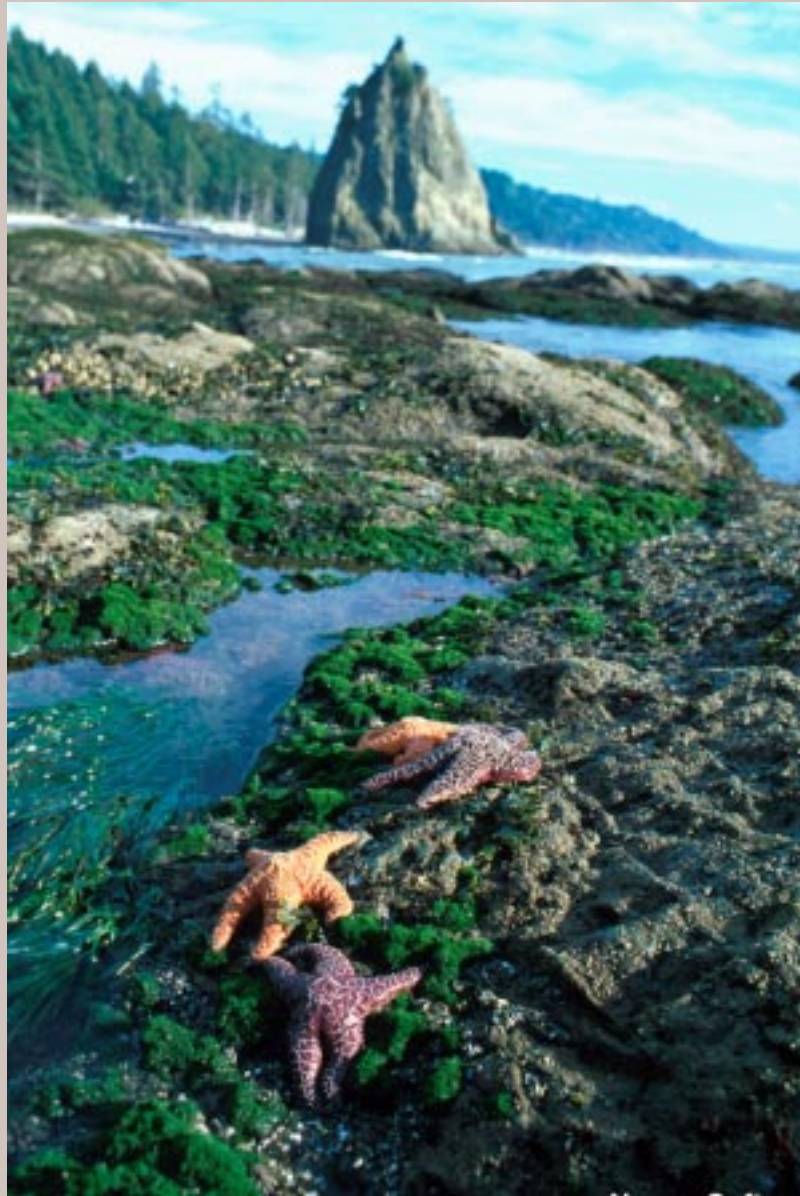


National Marine Sanctuary Program National Park Service

Meeting Report:
National Marine Sanctuary Program/National Park Service
Managers Retreat February 2001



This document summarizes a recent meeting of managers from the National Marine Sanctuary Program and the National Park Service. This document provides a report to the staffs of the National Marine Sanctuary Program and National Park Service, and members of the public on the subjects discussed during this meeting and on follow-up activities.

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Meeting Report: National Marine Sanctuary Program/National Park Service Managers' Retreat

Introduction

In the summer of 2000, the National Park Service (NPS) and the National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that details a number of shared objectives that both parties hold as managing agencies of protected area networks. The MOU also outlines how the two agencies will work together at the national level on such fronts as outcomes as improved operational and management efficiencies; increased understanding of important natural and cultural resources; increased ability and efficiency of planning efforts; increased public and congressional support; and increased law enforcement and rescue capabilities. The MOU also serves as an umbrella agreement for site- or project-specific subsidiary agreements.

On February 21 and 22, 2001, managers from both programs (of NPS and NMSP units that are near each other-see list of attendees in Table 1) met to discuss further implementation of the MOU. The retreat was held at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia.

Challenges and Opportunities

Preliminary discussions revealed a set of joint challenges and opportunities in implementing the MOU:

Communications: Lines of communication between individual parks and sanctuaries need to be clarified. Jointly communicating to and influencing the new Administration on marine conservation and protection are critical.

Cross-agency Coordination: Mechanisms for interagency coordination and cooperation need to be developed. Some examples of mechanisms include:

- site-specific addenda to the MOU;
- transfer of funds;
- personnel exchange;
- joint training; and
- joint permit procedures.

Participants all strongly agreed that coordination should be simple and not require the creation of a new bureaucracy.

Joint Potential Opportunities: Many shared opportunities were identified:

- implementation of the Executive Orders on coral reefs and marine protected areas;
- joint policies and procedures on marine reserves/no-take areas; and
- joint programs, including for education and outreach; research and monitoring; and cultural resource management.

It became clear through discussions that a two-pronged approach to shared efforts is desirable; implementation at the national level is critical for the larger system and long-term results together. At the same time, the site-specific efforts are essential to positive "on the ground" results and impacts on behalf of the nation's resources and communities.

Table 1: NMSS/NPS Retreat Participants

Name	Affiliation
Brad Barr, Senior Policy Analyst	NMSP Headquarters, Woods Hole, MA
Daniel J. Basta, NMSS Director	NMSP Headquarters, Silver Spring, MD
Rebecca Beavers, Coastal Geologist	NPS, Geologic Resources Division, Denver, CO
Lawrence Belli, Deputy Superintendent	NPS, Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks, Homestead, FL
Carol Bernthal, Superintendent	NMSP, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, Port Angeles, WA
Reed Bohne, Manager	NMSP, Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary, Savannah, GA
John Broadwater, Manager	NMSP, Monitor National Marine Sanctuary, Newport News, VA
Robert J. Brock, Supervisory Marine Biologist	NPS, Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks, Homestead, FL
Linda Canganelli, Superintendent	NPS, Biscayne National Park, Homestead, FL
Billy D. Causey, Superintendent	NMSP, Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, Marathon, FL
Richard Curry, Science/Research Coordinator	NPS, Biscayne National Park, Homestead, FL
Steven Fradkin, Coastal Ecologist	NPS, Olympic National Park, Port Angeles, WA
Mary Foley, Regional Chief Scientist	NPS, Boston Support Office, Boston, MA
Bob Howard, Management Assistant	NPS, Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks, Homestead, FL
Margo Jackson, Senior Policy Advisor	NMSP Headquarters, Silver Spring, MD
Craig MacDonald, Superintendent	NMSP, Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, Scituate, MA
Elizabeth Moore, Program Analyst	NMSP Headquarters, Silver Spring, MD
David Morris, Superintendent	NPS, Olympic National Park, Port Angeles, WA
Brian O'Neil, Superintendent	NPS, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, San Francisco, CA
Matt Pickett, Manager	NMSP, Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, Santa Barbara, CA
Tim J. Setnicka, Superintendent	NPS, Channel Islands National Park, Ventura, CA
Bruce Terrell, Marine Archaeologist	NMSP Headquarters, Silver Spring, MD
Jim Tilmant	NPS, Water Resources Division, Fort Collins, CO
Ed Ueber, Manager	NMSP, Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, San Francisco, CA
Michael Weiss, Attorney-Advisor	NOAA, General Counsel, Silver Spring, MD

National Challenges and Issues for Each Program

Each program was asked to give an overview of the top management issues facing it now and in the next few years: The NPS identified such issues as:

- fire management;
- funding for the development and maintenance of infrastructure;
- expansion of entrepreneurial authorities;
- impacts of the energy crises on protected areas;
- building and sustaining support for federal initiatives; and
- accountability for program funding and management.

The NMSP identified its top issues as:

- meeting the high expectations of the public;
- working with the new Administration to raise its awareness of marine protection and conservation;
- working more closely with partner agencies;
- raising the visibility of the NMSP;
- demonstrating the economic contributions of National Marine Sanctuaries; and
- defining and determining the compatibility of multiple uses.

The participants saw many areas of overlap and potential cooperation, which highlighted even more the need to work closely together; rapid, efficient implementation of the MOU is therefore very important.

National Working Groups

The implementation strategies outlined in the MOU called for a number of measures to be implemented. Among them, and one of the main reasons for the retreat, was the creation of national level working groups. The participants were asked to help define what those working groups should be and the priority goals for each one.

One of two working groups identified in the MOU was one to focus on national policy and planning. Potential tasks for this group to address included: identifying jurisdictional authorities; coordinating permits; reviewing and coordinating strategic and operating plans; and exchanging management plan methodology and tools.

A second working group identified in the MOU was to focus on national-level stewardship development. Potential tasks for this group to address included: developing joint science/research strategies; developing joint education and outreach programs; and coordinating media and congressional activities.

As the discussion continued, participants brought up the idea of creating additional working groups, one to focus on enforcement issues, such as cross-deputizing each agency's enforcement officers, and a second to plan an event, such as a workshop, on submerged cultural resources.

The infrastructure for the working groups was also discussed. Participants felt that each group should be kept small, with no more than six or seven members rotating as necessary to meet targeted tasks, with a co-chair for each agency. Members should be chosen based on the expertise needed to reach the targeted tasks. Each working group should be very focussed on one or two tasks, and should operate via conference calls and e-mails to help keep meetings to a minimum (repeating, again, that a new bureaucracy should not be created just to support the MOU). Feedback and assessment mechanisms should be built into the process. Participants suggested that the national contacts for the MOU, Jim Tilmant for NPS and Elizabeth Moore for NMSP, should function as liaisons between the working groups.

National Inventory of Joint Projects

One of the action items for which the NMSP agreed to assume responsibility was developing an inventory of the joint projects between the NMSP and the NPS. Such an inventory has already been developed (Table 2). An analysis of the inventory revealed the following findings:

- partnerships between NMSP and NPS units occurred in every facet of marine protected area operation, including education and outreach; research and monitoring; enforcement; emergency response, damage assessment, and restoration projects; infrastructure and logistics; and management planning and policy development; joint education and research projects were the most common type.
- The majority of partnerships were informal (i.e., not defined by a specific local memorandum of understanding or other document) and were achieved by such mechanisms as staff coordination, shared facilities, transfer of funding, and/or exchange of personnel.
- Those sites that overlapped or directly bordered on one another had more partnerships and other interactions than those sites that are close to one another but do not share common resources.

Conclusion

The participants offered evaluations of the retreat. Ninety-four percent of the participants rated both the task accomplishment and process with a either a "satisfied" or "highly satisfied" rating. Several comments highlighted appreciation for the exchange, networking opportunities, and learning about each other's organizations and programs. Some disappointment included the remoteness of the location as well as the snowstorm which cut the session short on the second day.

A number of action items were also discussed, at both the national and local levels.

National Level:

- Form the National Policy and Planning Working Group to address:
 - (1) management plan methodology and tools;
 - (2) drafting a working white paper on the jurisdictional authorities of both programs;
 - (3) coordination of central California NPS units and NMSP units during management plan reviews for the Monterey Bay, Gulf of the Farallones, and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries.
- Form the Enforcement Working Group to develop a national cross-deputization program/mechanism.
- Inventory all of the joint, site-specific and national level projects between NPS and NMSP. This project has already been completed and is included as Table 2 in this report.
- Six months after the retreat (August 2001), have principals meet and determine:
 - (1) how well the MOU implementation is going;
 - (2) how well the working groups are functioning;
 - (3) determine any changes that need to be made to the MOU or working groups; and
 - (4) priorities for joint projects for FY02.

Local Level:

- Commit to annual visits at each other's sites.
- Commit to helping with the working groups.

Table 2: Inventory of NPS/NMSP Joint Projects

Units	Projects
Channel Island NMS ¹ /Channel Islands NP ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint education and interpretive projects, including Marine Educators Regional Alliance, Sustainable Seas Expeditions, and special public and media events • Santa Barbara Visitors Center includes joint displays, signage, and staffing • Park sits on Sanctuary Advisory Council and Marine Reserves Working Group • Shared help forest monitoring by Park and Sanctuary personnel • Joint sponsorship of Great American Fish Count • Park provided research vessel and crew for joint monitoring surveys of Xantus murrelet • Park provided planning to assist in development of design of new research vessel • Enforcement personnel enforce regulations of both Park and Sanctuary
Fagatele Bay NMS/NP of American Samoa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanctuary interpretive signage in the Park's visitors center • Environmental Education Activity Guide, published by Park and used by both Park and Sanctuary staff • EnviroDiscoveries summer camp sponsored by Park and Sanctuary • Field trips sponsored by Sanctuary to the Park and its visitor center • Shared coral reef monitoring by Park and Sanctuary personnel • Future: possible shared facilities including administrative offices and visitor center
Florida Keys NMS/Everglades NP/Dry Tortugas NP/Biscayne Bay NP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Nancy Foster Florida Keys Environmental Center (interagency visitors facility) • Joint membership on the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force • Sanctuary participation in the Biscayne Bay NP management plan review • Joint educational and outreach programming (<u>Waterways</u> television show) • Joint management planning and implementation in the Dry Tortugas NP and Tortugas Ecological Reserve
Flower Garden Banks NMS/Gulf Islands NS ³	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no joint projects
Gray's Reef NMS/Cumberland Island NS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no joint projects
Gulf of the Farallones NMS/Cordell Bank NMS/Golden Gate NRA ³ /Point Reyes NS ⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing joint monitoring projects, including the SEALS program, beach monitoring, Adopt-A-Beach program, and rocky intertidal habitat monitoring • Joint restoration projects, including the <u>Cape Mohican</u>, <u>Command</u>, and <u>Apex Houston oil spill</u> restoration projects, and restoration projects at Point Reyes, Giacomini Ranch, Muir Beach, and Bolinas Lagoon • Joint visitors centers in Pacifica and Crissy Field • Joint interpretive materials and projects • Joint work on region as the Golden Gate Biosphere Reserve under the Man and the Biosphere Program

¹National Marine Sanctuary ²National Park ³National Seashore ⁴National Recreation Area

Continued on next page

Table 2: Inventory of NPS/NMSS Joint Projects Continued

Units	Projects
Gulf of the Farallones NMS/Cordell Bank NMS/ Golden Gate NRA ³ /Point Reyes NS ⁴ continued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint emergency response and damage assessment programs • Cooperative support for enforcement staff at Tomales Bay • Joint research projects, including research cruises, and harbor seal and elephant seal census and monitoring • Joint sponsorship of annual beach clean-ups targeting removal of tar balls • Joint participation on each other's and community planning and advisory groups
Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale NMS/Haleakala NP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanctuary staff has attended Park-sponsored natural resources interpretation training
Monitor NMS/Cape Lookout NS/Cape Hatteras NS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no joint projects
Monterey Bay NMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no joint projects
Olympic Coast NMS/Olympic Coast NP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared facilities • Sanctuary -funded Park naturalist positions • Jointly coordinated programs, including volunteer clean-up of coasts, oil spill planning and restoration, overflight education campaign, and planning for management plan reviews • Annual newspaper tabloid published by the Park, with Sanctuary insert • Sanctuary/Park interpretive signage • Joint research/monitoring projects on seabird mortality, sea otter population, biomarker sampling, etc. • Sanctuary funds and Park provides technical assistance on GIS/data conversion • Sanctuary/Park marine reserve planning and designation • Park sits on Sanctuary Advisory Council • Future: possible expanded shared facilities including development of a coastal visitors contact center • Future: potential joint permitting procedures

